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REPORT OF THE REGIONAL SEMINAR AND STUDY TOUR ON POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background and objectives

1. The African Regional Conference on Integrated Approach to Rural Development held in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, 13-24 October 1969, recommended, inter-alia the following:

(a) Rural development programmes should be prepared democratically by consulting with, and with the support of the rural inhabitants who should participate in the selection of targets and in all phases of the implementation of the programme.

(b) National Development Plans must take into account measures for a more equitable distribution of income, opportunities should be provided especially to rural populations, to avail themselves of programmes that can raise their standard of living.

2. A number of conferences and seminars have since been convened in Africa and elsewhere to deal with the pressing problems of rural development, to formulate appropriate strategies for integrated approach to rural development in Africa and suggest ways and means of implementing such strategies. In all these meetings, popular participation in rural development has been singled out as a critical factor for success of the integrated approach to rural development.

3. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) resolution 321 (XIII) on Integrated Rural Development adopted in March 1977 called upon the Executive Secretary, ECA to undertake studies and disseminate information on effective strategies, policies and machinery for the implementation of integrated rural development (IRD) programmes, including the organization of training, seminars, study tours and meetings to this end. ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 197 (IX) of 1969 also requested the Executive Secretary of ECA, among other things.

(a) "to intensify research into social inputs required for economic development as well as the studies of methods required to secure popular participation in development projects",

(b) "to take due steps to secure the fullest possible co-operation of member States in the adoption of the philosophy and strategy of the integrated approach to their rural development programmes".

4. In compliance with these mandates and with General Assembly resolution 34/152 of 17 December 1979, ECA Regional Seminar and Study Tour on Popular Participation in Rural Development in Africa was held from 3-22 October at Tashkent Agricultural Institute, Tashkent, USSR. The Seminar, which was organized by ECA in co-operation with FAO, UNESCO, UNRISD and Tashkent Agricultural Institute, had the following objectives:

(a) The United Nations systems should promote the exchange of experience on popular participation among different countries. Such exchange of experience should take place at subregional, regional and global levels through publications and seminars;

(b) Institutional set-up ensuring such participation should be clearly established;

(c) Efforts should be made by governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Agencies to provide appropriate training to leaders of rural organizations as well as government staff engaged in participatory rural development programmes;

(d) Member States and international organizations need to identify the modalities of innovative approaches to people's participation in rural development.

5. Attendance:: Twenty five government experts from the following twenty-two African countries participated in the Seminar: Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Tchad, The Comoros, The Congo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Four delegates and twelve observers from the USSR also attended it. In addition, resource persons from the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization took part in the Seminar. A list of participants is given in the Annex.

6. Election of the drafting committee: The Seminar elected the following as members of the drafting committee.

Mr. Mustapha Kano	(Nigeria)	Chairman
Mr. E.B. N. Nyiti	(United Rep. of Tanzania)	Member
Mr. M. Auguste	(The Congo)	Member
Mr. B. Paramanund	(Mauritius)	Member

7. Opening of the Meeting: Mr. E.T. Shaikov, Chairman of the USSR Organizing Committee of the Seminar and Study Tour and Rector of the Tashkent Agricultural Institute, inaugurated the Seminar. He welcomed the participants to Tashkent and expressed satisfaction that ECA had decided to hold it at his Institute. He informed the participants that while prior to October 1917 Uzbekistan was part of Turkistan, a colonial outskirt of Tsarist Russia, the Republic has developed into a full fledged Soviet Socialist Republic, with modern industry, mechanized agriculture, and developed science and culture.

8. He stated that Uzbekistan Republic has more than 1,600 large enterprises. In 1982 industrial output amounted to about twenty million roubles, which was 450 times more than in 1922. The working class of the Republic numbered 3 million people. He gave, besides others, the following examples to illustrate progress in Uzbekistan:

(a) In 1922 Uzbekistan produced 37.4 thousand tons of cotton in comparison with 6 million tons in 1982. Production of grain was planned to increase to 5 million tons.

(b) While by the end of the past century only one newspaper with a circulation of 500-600 copies was published in Turkestan, 287 newspapers and 75 magazines in several languages were published today by the Republic;s Publishing House. Daily circulation of these publications amounted to 10 million copies

(c) Tashkent has developed into a large industrial, cultural and scientific centre in the Soviet East. It is a city of 2 million people. The city has 200 large industrial establishments which manufacture 1/5th of the Uzbekistan industrial output that is often exported to the outside world.

(d) Tashkent today has 113 research institutions, including the National Academy of Sciences in Tashkent. 100,000 specialists have graduated from them so far. It also has 19 higher schools, 320 secondary schools and 36 secondary vocational schools, more than 300 medical institutions, 12 theaters, 4 concert halls, 3 film studios, 9 museums and more than 200 public libraries.

9. He observed that Tashkent Agricultural Institute which is the biggest of the four agricultural institutes of the Republic was founded on 26 May 1930.

10. He said that during 53 years, the Institute produced 30,000 highly qualified specialists in the field of rural development including 1,400 Ph.Ds. More than 120,000 of the leading specialists in the field of rural development found chance to improve their skills at the Institute. 162 textbooks on 35 subjects have been written by the teaching staff. Their publication in Russian and Uzbek contributed to the improvement of the training of specialists in the Central Asia region.

11. Mr. Shaikov finally expressed tha hope that the Seminar and the Study Tour would prove to be a great success.

12. The representative of Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Sadig Rasheed, Chief of the Social Development, Environment and Human Settlements Division, ECA, delivered the key-note address at the opening session of the Seminar.

13. He stated that he was particularly grateful for the presence of distinguished experts from the African member States who have kindly accepted the invitation to participate in the Seminar despite their heavy pre-occupations back home. Mr. Rasheed thanked the representatives of FAO, UNESCO and UNRISD, who took the trouble to prepare papers for and participate in the Seminar, thus reflecting a true spirit of effective inter-agency collaboration in the service of the African continent.

14. He expressed profound thanks to Tashkent Agricultural Institute and to its distinguished Rector, Mr. Shaikov, for having hosted the Seminar at its premises and also for having organized the study tour and co-ordinated the preparations of papers on the Soviet experience on rural development.

15. He added that the ECA was indeed happy as to have been able to provide a forum for the African experts in the field of rural development to compare and analyze national experiences, approaches, policies and problems of popular participation in rural development; a subject of special relevance in the African continent where 75 percent of the total population live in rural areas. He also observed that the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have passed several resolutions calling for the adoption of measures to ensure that all segments of the population were appropriately involved in development activities.

16. Mr. Rasheed recalled in particular ECOSOC resolution 1929 (LVII) which, inter alia, called for populations to be involved in development efforts, sharing equitably in the benefits derived there from and in the decisions in respect of setting goals formulating policies and planning and implementing economic and social development programmes. He stated that, furthermore, a number of conferences and seminars have also been held by the United Nations Organizations, its specialized agencies and other international organizations, on the overall aspects as well as on the sectoral aspects of the subject. He noted however, that while there was general agreement on the principle of popular participation and its importance, national approaches to and institutions and modalities of popular participation and the success with which this principle has been put into practice varied a great deal according to the conditions prevailing in the different countries. He further observed that for that reason the exchange of experience and the cross-fertilization of ideas that was going to take place during the Seminar, on the basis of the country papers, the documentation prepared by ECA and the other collaborating UN agencies as well as the rich experience and expertise of the participants, was particularly important.

17. He concluded by saying the participants will have the opportunity of learning from the experience of the host country in the field of rural economy, agriculture and agro-industries, particularly as it relates to Uzbekistan SSR, by listening to a number of lectures on these issues and undertaking study tours to various places.

18. The First Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Republic were also present at the opening ceremony.

19. <u>Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work</u>:

The Meeting adopted the following agenda.

(i) Presentation and discussion of the country papers

(ii) Presentation and discussion of papers prepared by the United Nations System

(iii) Presentation and discussion of the papers on the experience of the USSR.

(iv) Study Tour

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

20. The African participants made statements relating to their countrys' experiences on the subject-matter of the Seminar the summary of which are given below:

21. Mauritius: The general policy of Mautitius is to improve the living conditions of the rural people by increasing their income. They are mostly involved in various self-help projects. The government provides funds and the beneficiaries implement them. The government also aims at:

(i) encouraging agricultural diversification and increased food supply;

(ii) making extensive use of unutilized and under-utilized lands;

(iii) creating more job opportunities, and

(iv) improving the general infrastructure in the rural areas.

22. The Rural Development Unit, which was set up in 1972, facilitates popular participation by extending the following facilities:

(i) allocation of fallow crown lands - two or three acres - to each poor, unemployed married couple for the cultivation of food-crops and one acre for the production of fruits; supplemented by irrigation and financial facilities;

(ii) free distribution of New Zealand cows to increase milk supply;

(iii) introduction of Anglo-nubian and Indian goats to improve livestock production, and

(iv) provision of medical facilities.

23. The Rural Development Unit also provides funds to the Young Farmers Club as well as to others for the cultivation of maize, groundnuts, potatoes, tomatoes and onions. The government encourages people to start projects such as bee-keeping, poultry farming, pig, deer and rabbit keeping by providing free materials for the construction of sheds, etc. Owners of small scale industries also get long-term loan at low interest for the purchase of machines and other tools.

24. Sierra Leone: The philosophy of the National Development Plan in Sierra Leone is to preserve national stability as a basis for better socio-economic progress for the welfare of the people. The core of the strategy is the use of self-help schemes. The government, therefore, gives a high priority to mobilizing the rural people through such schemes. They include agriculture, mass education, functional literacy, primary health care, maternal and child health and community development projects.

25. The village must be organized for effective popular participation. This can only be done through the village head men. The traditional heads in the village must, therefore, be given due respect and their role as prime movers in popular participation recognized. Their views must be taken into account at all times if popular participation were to be meaningful. If this is not followed, there will be no people's participation.

26. The next aspect of participation is the effectiveness of change agents, such as agricultural extensionist, extension workers, social workers, medical personnel or teachers. They should see themselves as those responsible to work with the villagers, who are themselves potential agents of change in order to bring about change for the better.

27. A grass-root worker in an integrated rural development programme must receive multi-disciplinary training. In Sierra Leone, there is a national training school for rural development, where workers are given training in basic health and nutrition programme, agriculture extension, functional literacy, construction of feeder roads and community health centres. The organization of co-operatives and income generating activities also form part of the training. All the trainees are given training in popular participation and mobilisation of grass-root efforts. An important aspect of this training is that they should be able to liaise their activities with specialists in the related disiplines. The emphasis here is on integration. The training also seeks to encourage the workers to be able to solicit financial contribution and voluntary labour input.

28. Exchange visits from one community to another with a successful project help in building up participatory society. However, experience suggests it is essential to choose the correct media for a given situation and to formulate the message carefully so that it corresponds to people's felt needs and can be easily understood by them. Communication is thus a two-way process involving dialogue between the government and the people, government explaining plans and priority, the people elaborating their needs. It is pertinent to add women and youth should also be fully involved at all stages of planning and implementation so that they can extend maximum co-operation in the development process.

29. Ghana: Popular participation can be manifested in different dimensions of social activities. It is because of these different dimensions that some vagueness in definition is likely to arise when individuals state their country experience on popular participation. Its dimensions are inexhaustible. Hence, it is not surprising that the Declaration of Principles and Programmes of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held at Rome in 1979 attempted to itemize its elements.

30. In Ghana, during the tenure of office of the last civilian administration, a Ministry of Rural Development and Co-operatives was created in 1980. This was to help raise the living standard of the rural dwellers by co-ordinating the activities of all government agencies involved in rural development. The Ministry is now involved in a plan to bring in essential services close to the people as far as possible through Rural Service Centres and the development of growth points.

31. The present government has decentralised the administrative system to facilitate decision-making and project planning at the grass-root level. The farmers have various co-operative societies like housing, marketing, input supply, etc. These societies ensure that the actual producers have access to necessary facilities. Rural banks provide credit at the village level. These banks are managed by local people and funded by the Central Bank. About 63 of them have already been established.

32. A pilot project on people's participation is now being implemented with the support of FAO, the Netherlands and Ghana to test the concept. Already two pilot areas have been selected: Group Promoters posted and a soico-economic survey to identify disadvantaged group of people is about to begin in these two areas.

33. Some of the problems faced in popularizing the concept of people's participation may be stated in synopsis form. They are: (a) tribal conflict; (b) level of organization and inadequate services rendered by it, and (c) the prevailing socio-economic condition of the country. This includes the level of infra-structure development. People's participation could be ensured in a given area depending on: (i) its actual and/or potential economic activities and market outlet, and (ii) proximity of development oriented departments and other delivery systems of services and inputs.

34. Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe's policy is to improve the socio-economic conditions of its people particularly the disadvantaged groups residing in the rural areas. Zimbabwe at the time of independence, inherited a dualistic socio-economic system. The rural areas had little or no access to civic amenities. The government, in order to rectify this dualism and to reconstruct the damaged economy, adopted policies and strategies which have been documented in 'Three Year National Transitional Plan and Growth with equity'.

35. Priorities have, therefore, been given to (i) reconstruction programmes and (ii) land reform and land resettlement issues. Zimbabwe wishes to establish a society based on egalitarian principles, democracy and socialism. The government thus intends to achieve a fair distribution of land ownership in order to reduce the magnitude of absolute poverty in rural areas.

36. To bring about the desired changes, government has directed its efforts to improving the situation in rural areas, and the people have responded by participating in the many projects designed to meet their needs better on a sustained basis.

37. Nigeria: To encourage people's participation in rural development, the Federal and State governments in Nigeria have adopted many measures. The governments feel participation of rural people in the implementation of rural development projects depends to a very great extent on their 'felt needs' and, therefore, consensus in the prioritization and methods of implementation. Nigeria has also developed the concept of 'matching grant' from governments to supplement community effort to implement rural development projects. The official contribution has varied from five to fifty percent of initial capital cost depending on the resources of the concerned governments.

38. The Federal Government and the State Governments have embarked on several programmes that are aimed at encouraging the rural people to participate in the development of their areas. Two such programmes are the Federal Government/UNICEF assisted Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project and the Work Services Units. In the first project, besides demonstrating the need for it and community's implementation capacity, each beneficiary community has to provide evidence of its willingness and capability to repair and maintain the water supply works and eventual ability to take-over its ownership.

39. The programme which seeks to drill Indian Mark II hand-pump boreholes and introduce improved latrines starts off with mobilization of rural community and inducing them to accept the proposed facilities. Many project support communication aids are used. The most crucial strategy perhaps has been the training of village volunteers as Village Based Workers (VBWs) who work with various Government and Community sponsored programmes. These VBWs encourage local people to widen roads and take active part in the daily review of the project, get their co-operation in building borehole pump platforms, and keep borehole surrounding clean. They encourage villagers to build pit-latrines; use them and carry out regular monitoring of the pumps for timely repairs. They give reports to local government, act as village paramedicals and encourage improved hygenic practices in order to prevent the outbreak of any of the "ten killer diseases of childhood". Another programme which encourages peoples' participation in rural development is the work services unit consisting of a pool of tractors and machines, which help communities in implementing rural development projects. The unit also makes available free designs of community self-help projects like markets, health centres, village layouts and civic centres to communities who might need them and monitors their performance.

40. Kenya: During the Second Five Year National Development Plan (1969-1974) the Government acknowledged the people's wishes to let them participate fully in rural development. Nevertheless, it was too late to incorporate this strategy in the plan. However, in order to meet half way the wishes of the people, the Government introduced Rural Development Fund (RDF). It was meant to finance small projects, which were of top priority according to rural people. Each district was allocated one million shillings a year. Implementing agency for RDF projects was the District Development Committee (DDC) which was composed of the District Commission as the Chairman and the departmental heads of the district as members.

41. In the Third Five Year National Development Plan (1974-1979), having accepted popular participation as a requirement in rural development, Kenya decided to strengthen DDCs in rural areas. It decided that each district should prepare its own Five Year District Development Plan, which will be in line with the Five Year National Development Plan. By the middle of current plan (1979-1983) in 1981, the Government went further and declared that from then onwards the district was going to be the focus for the rural development in the country. Thes policy is being implemented from 1983-1984 financial year. It will be some time before Kenya can bring its managerial aspect of implementation to perfection. However, a start has been made.

42. DDC has a membership of 50 representing various specialities and interests. The Government, therefore, set up an Executive Committee within the DDC to select the most viable and top priority projects otu of the list submitted to it.

43. Both the DDC and the District Executive Committee are under the guidance of the Provincial Planning Officer in the respective province, who is under the control of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Indeed, the concept of 'Popular Participation for Rural Development' in Kenya is well developed through decentralised planning under the district focus. What is needed is time for the system to deliver the goods to the people.

44. The Gambia: In the Gambia rural development means the development of agriculture and effective decentralisation of socio-economic, politico-administrative structure and educational, communication and health facilities. This has been sufficiently detailed in the Gambia's 1975 Five Year Development Plan. Thus "the objective of the rural development is to secure accelerated and balanced development of those parts of the country in which the great majority of the people earn their livelihood directly or indirectly from the land so that they will make a great contribution to the progress of the nation as a whole, while at the same time providing a sustained improvement in their standard of living. Balanced here means, an absence of undue disparities between different regions and between groups of people". The organs of popular participation in the Gambia include: (i) political cadre; (ii) traditional leadership; and (iii) decentralised administrative structure.

45. The Gambia believes that its development plan is the people's plan, and it emphasises rural development, food self-sufficiency, a more equitable distribution of income, better educational opportunities and increased participation of people throughout the nation in the development process. This has been amply demonstrated by the establishment of : (a) National Development Planning Committees; (b) National Review Committee; (c) Ministrial Planning Committee and (d) Divisional Development Committees.

46. These committees seek to achieve the following four basic targets of rural development: (a) productivity increase, (b) eradication of the socio-economic factors (e.f. destitution, unemployment and the rural-urban drift) militating against development; (c) local resource-based development and (d) popular participation through Desito (self-help) activities.

47. Liberia: Development co-ordination has been organized in Liberia to assist the Community Development Committees since 1980. They have been working very successfully there. The Development Co-ordinator receives the requests for projects from the rural people and sends them to the Director of Community Services for technical scrutiny. Such requests relate to rural infrastructure and civic facilities. The approved projects are implemented by the contribution of the rural people, supplemented by government funds.

48. The Government sometimes executes its own project in the rural areas. In fact, most of the rural development projects of Liberia are Government initiated. It introduced the "self-help programmes" to encourage popular participation. Liberia facilitates people's involvement by giving free seeds, subsidised tools, services and by setting up extension co-operative societies and closing down courts controlled by traditional chiefs. However, some of the problems the country faces are: inadequate trained manpower, insufficient roads and damaged forests.

49. United Republic of Tanzania: In its search for appropriate institution for popular participation, the United Rep. of Tanzania has gone through a process of trial and error. Its experience shows there are certain pre-requisites for popular participation. These are, in the context of the United Republic of Tanzania: (a) participatory ideology; (b) participatory institutions; (c) availability of adequate information (d) adequate material and technical resources; and (e) recognition that popular participation carries a price. Participatory ideology requires: (a) equity in distribution of income and development resources, (b) self-reliant development; and (c) community action.

50. The United Republic of Tanzania has a decentralized form of government, which has delegated powers to the villages. The Local Government has been re-established in 1982 to give village and district councils more autonomy in raising funds and managing their own social and economic development. The villagers can indicate their priorities in development programmes to the District Councils through the elected village committees. The national Government since 1982 provides supplementary funds to less endowed District Committee to implement projects. This is intended to avoid geographical disparity.

51. Co-operative societies form another major participatory institution. A village can form a primary co-operative society, and if two or more of these join together they become a co-operative society and if two or more of these join together they are treated as a co-operative union. At the national level, there is a national union of co-operative societies. The responsibilities of the co-operative societies include procurement and distribution of farm implements and consumer goods, provision of credit facilities and transport, crop collection, processing and marketing of the produce.

52. The United Republic of Tanzania has learnt a lot from the 22 years' experience of institutionalizing popular participation. It has introduced democracy in the Government in order to give the people power in decision-making, planning and choosing their own priorities. Although some mistakes may have been made in the process, it has been in good faith and in pursuance of the policy to democratize institutions. In short, the achievements so far have been worth the efforts.

53. Lesotho: Several ministries contribute to rural development of Lesotho. Their activities cover agriculture, health, education, rural roads, co-operatives, water supplies, etc. In 1976, the Ministry of Rural Development was established and charged with the responsibility of motivating and educating the rural people to raise their standards of living and integrate the people's efforts with those of government for achieving the national goals.

54. When it was evident that the programmes that were designed to benefit the rural poor left this target group untouched, the United Nations Administrative Committee on co-ordination was invited in 1977 to send a Task Force to investigate the reasons of failure. The end result was the strengthening of the Ministry of Rural Development at three levels. The National level was strengthened with a Policy and Co-ordination Unit. A cadre of Resource Planners was introduced and posted in districts to strengthen the planning machinery. Development Assistants were posted in villages to work directly with the rural people. These officials were to be the agents of change through the existing village institutions.

55. The head of the civil service at district level until 1980 was the District Administrator (DA). He was assisted by the District Development Secretaries (DDS) in matters of development. In 1966, Inter-Departmental District Development Committees (DDC) were established. DDC used to consider requests from the village Development Committees. It was abolished later. In 1980, DAs were re-designated as District Co-ordinators, with direct access to Permanent Secretary.

56. The Village Development Committees (VDCs) are grassroot institutions which are in touch with the communities directly. They have a history that dates as far back as 1959 and were formed as an executive arm of the traditional "pitzo's". These are gatherings traditionally convened by chiefs for open discussion with the villagers. During their life time, the VDCs have undergone several changes and assumed various duties. Studies are being undertaken to make them more effective. Pilot projects which try to blend the traditional and more modern institutional framework are now being implemented.

57. Another approach to popular participation is through village based co-operatives. Covernment wishes to make use of what is historically, culturally and economically acceptable to the people. The fundamental principles of a village co-operative are: voluntary participation, the right of settlement or migration, common responsibility for law and order and democratic management of the affairs of the inhabitants. Co-operatives formed along this institutional structure has a better chance of success than others in the context of Lesotho.

58. Botswana: A national policy on rural development was proclaimed in 1971 with the publication of Government paper entitled, "Rural Development in Botswana". The thrust of the policy is that if development programmes were to succeed, they must attempt to deal with the problems and aspirations of rural people.

59. The Government has three major aims which are intended to: (i) increase production, (ii) improve marketing and credit facilities and social services in the rural areas; and (iii) create rural employment opportunities. To achieve these objectives a national Rural Development Council has been set up. Its membership is inter-sectoral and represents various interests. The Council's major task is to continously review all rural development projects and to resolve any problems that may hinder their implementation. The Council has two major sub-committees. They are: Rural Extension Co-ordinating Committee and National Resources Technical Committee. At the lower level, the structure of the council has been replicated, i.e. District Development Committee, Village Development Committee and various extension groups - both formal and informal ones. These Committees try to achieve greater involvement of traditional and new local institutions in development activities in their respective areas of responsibility.

60. Even though Botswana's traditional society is hierarchial, there has always been a strong democratic tradition. Hence, consultation and consensus are central to all public affairs. Botswana's position on the participation of rural people in the process of rural development was perhaps best put by the late Vice-President, Lenyeletse Seretse, in 1976 when in a national conference he said, inter alia, " ... the target of our efforts is people ...".

61. In Botswana, there is no shortage of community organizations to support. In nearly every village, there is a range of informal; quasi-modern; and formally constituted organisations. The informal groups are largely involved in agricultural activities such as fencing, watering, and livestock disease control. Some villages have more elaborate community structures like co-operatives and development trusts. Together, these organizations support and promote a wide variety of rural interests.

62. Malawi and Chad: No formal statements were made by these two countries.

63. Benin: The participation of the people of Benin in rural development takes various forms. These are: political, economic, social and cultural involvements of citizens in designing, programming, implementation and appraisal of development activities. People exercise the right to participate through their involvement in Village Assemblies, Local Government Agencies, Project Executing Agencies, Revolutionary Co-operative groups, and village and neighbourhood Agricultural Promotion Committees.

64. The local government agencies sensitize and mobilize the people. They also relay messages and party directives concerning the implementation of agricultural and other projects to the rural people. Rural development programmes are prepared on the principles of consensus and of democratic centralism.

65. All government agencies co-operate with the political bodies in promoting rural development and popular participation. At the village level, the people get functional education from the technicians. The politicians, trade unionists, women's representatives, youth organizations, defence committees, farmers' representatives, mayors and village representatives also educate the rural people.

66. Benin's policy is to collectivize the means of production, increase productivity and raise the gross national product. Involving the people in the planning of rural development programmes is one way of eliciting their support. They are responsible to appraise, implement, and monitor rural development programmes with the assistance of the various organizations mentioned earlier.

The difficulties in rural development encountered so far include the low educational level of the people, the lack of agricultural credit and the inadequacy of rainfall.

67. Burundi: The emphasis on popular participation in development can be found in Burundi's Five-Year Development Plan (1978-1982), which accords top priority to rural development. The major responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Development are to group people into villages and restructure the land tenure system to increase production. In rural areas, efforts are being made to improve the habitat and to speed up the grouping of people into villages. The State gives home building loans while the people benefitting from the loans provide the labour.

68. To assist the rural people, the government has set up within the Ministry of Rural Development a fund which provides them with credit in kind. At the grass-root level, people who are already aware of the benefits of living together in villages persuade others to join. People organize themselves in small groups to produce bricks and jointly build houses with semi-durable materials. This type of intiative by people is encouraged. The financial resources allocated for carrying out this programme is increased every year.

69. Priority has been given to the development or renovation of small water supply systems to provide safe drinking water. Progress has already been made in harnessing water sources, drilling wells and supplying water to the village.

70. There is a total of 160 production, supply and marketing co-operatives in the country. People participate in the construction of co-operative buildings and provide the initial capital outlay. Rural youth is organized into groups and educated in production co-operative techniques which they practise at home. They form the core agricultural and handicraft production units.

71. Rugged relief features, overgrazing, high population density, torrential rain and winds expose the country to erosion. To cope with the problem anti-eorsion ditches have been dug by the people since 1977 and erosion-control trees planted. Priority was accorded to the drainage basins most exposed to erosion. These activities made it possible to preserve soil fertility and to regularize the discharge of water-courses.

72. Burundi is making considerable efforts to improve the quality and increase the quantity of such export crops as coffee, tea and cotton, 90 percent of which is exported. These efforts will enable farmers to increase their income and the country to earn foreign exchange. Burundi hopes that by pursuing such a policy of rural participation in development, the country will develop in a harmonious and balanced manner. Burundi has begun to locate projects regional having recognized that no improvement of rural living conditions could be possible without a decentralized structure.

73. The Comoros: The first development priority of the Comoros is food self-sufficiency. This task has been entrusted to agricultural policy makers, who, in partnership with rural people, try to attain the objective.

74. The Ministry of Production, Industry and Handicrafts (Centre federal d'appui du developpment rural (CEFADEP)) is responsible for facilitating popular participation. It is also the planning organ that co-ordinates all agricultural projects at the national level regardless of their source of financing. The idea is to integrate rural development activities and to optimise the use of meagre resources. CEFADER supervises the Centre regionaux d'appui au development rural (CADERs) and provides follow-up. It provides the regional centres with implements and inputs they need to operate. It gathers data, analyses them and finalises the programme prepared by each regional centre. CEFADER also provides training for its staff as well as officials of the regional centres.

75. The funds are provided either from the internal resources or from project aid. The regional centres are the project-executing agencies responsible for co-ordinating all development activities undertaken in their respective zones. Under the supervision and technical control of the Federal Centre, they implement the Government's agricultural policy. They sell to the farmers at cost price equipments and services received from the Federal Centre. They also train the extension officers. The extension officers, in turn, train rural leaders chosen by the villagers themselves to serve as intermediaries between them and the technical staff of the Regional Centres.

76. The constraints on popular participation in rural development in the Comoros are: (i) population explosion; (ii) inadequate technicical expertise of the rural people; (iii) limited communication facilities and, (iv) unacknowledged contribution of women to development.

77. The Congo: The general objective of the rural development projects in the Pool and Plateaux regions of Congo was to improve the standard of living of rural people by: (i) creating the necessary institutional structure for rural development; (ii) increasing agricultural and small-scale livestock production; and (iii) helping to create more jobs. Hence, plans were also made to reorganize the marketing structure, strengthen and improve the agricultural training and extension activities; improve the habitat and the road network with the partic.pation of the people. The Ministry of Public Works set up handicrafts and mechanical workshops; established an agricultural credit agency and revolving fund, and formed a national committee to co-ordinate the activities of all technical assistance agencies.

78. During the period 1970-1972, a publicity campaign was mounted over a delimited area. From 1973 to 1977, rural development and small-scale investment activities were carried out. During 1979 to 1980, extension and large-scale investment activities were conducted in two regions. The most notable achievement was in getting farmers to agree to set up pre-co-operative group. They now know how to raise their income and standard of living. The income obtained from the pre-co-operatives is shared among members in accordance with the group decision. Depending on the activities undertaken, the number of members may vary from 7 to 20, and, in some cases, be as many as 50.

79. Over the 10 years from 1972 to 1982, the project have created and organized 450 groups in the two regions with a total membership of 11,000. Many difficulties largely beyond the capacity of the projects themselves were encountered such as: (i) inadequate material and financial resources, (ii) poor and often dangerous transport facilities, (iii) unorganized collection and marketing of produce, (iv) uncontrolled purchase and sale prices, (v) inadequate training of staff and (vi) inefficient production techniques.

80. Gabon: Rural development operations in Gabon involve voluntary participation of village communities in projects implemented by the Government and others. They cover agriculture and all other activities pertaining to the improvement of living conditions in rural areas. The objectives of these projects are mainly to: (i) improve the productivity of traditional shifting cultivation, (ii) raise the living conditions of rural people, (iii) reduce income disparities between urban and rural sectors and organize the economic, social and cultural life of rural communities and (iv) make the development structure more dynamic.

81. Before undertaking a project, publicity campaigns are conducted to explain to the people its nature and objectives and what role they are expected to play. Particular stress is laid on the need for the rural people to work together. They are made to appreciate that the project belongs to them. Steps are also taken to ensure that administrative problems do not adversely affect the project schedule, particularly when several departments such as health, agriculture and public works are involved.

82. It has been difficult to propose uniform method of farming which would be both technically feasible and economically viable due to inconclusive technical data. Similarly since the financial viability of this type of project so far is apparently low there have been problems in finding funds to finance such programmes.

83. Guinea: District Agro-Pastoral Farms (FAPA) are the key elements of Guinea's production, training and staffing system. They are established in the countryside, close to villages and operate as co-operative production units entirely run by rural development technicians.

84. Such geographical entities as districts, covering an area whose ecology is homogeneous are chosen because they facilitate identification, the precise formulation of technological needs, experimentation and adoptation of solutions to identified problems. They also provide contact on an almost daily basis between FAPA officials and farmers, thus making it possible to provide speedy services, wherever required along the production line. Guinea, relaying primarily on its own resources, has already set up 360 FAPAs which have their own equipment, staff and local currency budget.

85. Madagascar: The "FOKONOLONAS" is the basic structure of traditional society in Madagascar. It is a political decision-making body which also has a degree of decentralized economic power. The name National People's Assembly is a clear indicator of the spirit and objectives of the system. FOKONOLONAS operate as people's development councils from the grass-root level upwards. The rural people has the right to manage their own affairs on the basis of collective agreement and within the framework of the National Development Plan. At the village or community land level, each FOKOLONA elects a committee and various other sub-committees, the most important of which is the economic sub-committee. Any disruption or resumption of community work is regulated by consensus. The FOKOLONA may establish autonomous operating structure under the control of the Committee. The Government provides basic staff composed of educators, agricultural extension officers, rural project organizers and technical personnel who, together with the FOKONOLONA, constitute technical support commissions. The Government also provides assistance for the marketing of agricultural produce. Any disputes between the administrative authorities and the peoples' technical services are settled by public discussion. The national radio network broadcasts live issues of topical importance to serve as examples. FOKONOLONA structure and principles are not alien to Madagascar. In fact, they reflect social realities of the country.

86. Morocco: Morocco began appropriating farmlands and redistributing them to small farmers and to landless farmers under the Legislative Act of 1966 and introduced a co-operative system. In order to streamline and intensify the development of all farm, forest and livestock potentials an Agricultural Investment Code was promulgated in 1969, making land development enforceable by law and providing for the expropriation of land from defaulting farmers and the award of incentives to deserving farmers. The law provides specifically for Land Development Central Commissions on which farmers are largely represented along with representatives of the Administration. Training is provided to farmers in irrigated and non-irrigated areas respectively by a number of Development Centres which are co-ordinated by regional agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. Agricultural credit is provided to the farmers and subsidised by the State. The custom in Morocco is for the farmers to participate voluntarily in launching the farming season each year under a nation-wide mutual assistance programme called "TOUIZA".

87. Rural people are also represented by elected farmers in the Chambers of Agriculture established in each province. Since the promulgation of the communal charter in 1976, people have become entirely responsible for the development of their communes. These are the basic units for development not only of the rural areas but also of the urban centres of the country. Morocco has 900 local communities of which 760 are rural communes.

88. Morocco does not have a specific plan for rural development. However, rural development is a priority objective in the national plan. The plan originates from the communes which first submit their ideas or requests to the Provincial Assemblies and then to the Regional Consulative Assemblies and finally to the Supreme Council for National Planning and Development. Rural people have majority representation in the Parliament; which has authority for enacting legislation. They are also represented in all political parties, associated bodies and trade unions.

89. Togo: The first political regime (the First Republic) that ruled from 1958 to January 1963 enjoyed a very favourable groundswell of active and massive participation of people in national development. The people were conscious of the country's under-development. They had been freed from carrying out forced labour for the benefit of colonizers and cherished their new-found political sovereignty. They were all prepared to contribute individually and collectively to build an economically prosperous and powerful nation. Infact, they built schools, clinics, roads, bridges, village water supply and irrigation systems, not to mention production units. Hard work was the order of the day because the people identified themselves with their communities. As though free labour was not enough, they even went as far as to provide some of the materials for building the country. Unfortunately, the Government of the day could not turn such initiative to good use and the people gradually lost interest.

90. Under the Second Republic which lasted from January 1963 to January 1967, the productive forces of the country were dispersed into various unproductive mass organizations. The Third Republic, dating from 1967, based the country's development on successive Five-Year Development Plans, in which the main considerations were collection of basic data and the harmonious development of all regions of the country.

91. The First Plan had the objective of establishing such infrastructure as was necessary for harmonious development. The Second Plan consolidated the established development structure from 1971 to 1975. The Third Plan (1976-1980) paved the way for economic take-off. It was a diversified production plan that was more aimed at balanced regional growth. Thus, its investment quotient was high and covered a wide range of regional development projects. The Fourth Plan, which is currently being implemented over the period of 1981-1985 should enable the country to be self-sufficient in food and even be able to export.

92. Togo has opted for the planned method of development. Pursuant of this objective, the First Plan focused on structures, the Second Plan on dynamic action, the Third Plan on placing the national economy on a productive footing with the active participation of all segments of society, and the Fourth Plan on the policy of food self-sufficiency that would enable the country to take off economically. Agricultural production has been intensified. While the efforts made to date by the Government and the people to participate in rural development have been commendable, they remain modest when compared to needs.

(b) Summary of Discussion of African National Experiences:

93. The organizational structure, such as the channel of communication from the central government to the village level was the most discussed topic. It was repeatedly stated that the administratively established sub-district within the country was the main channel of communication to the village level.

94. It was stressed that for popular participation to be effective at the country level, women and youth should play a major role, since they constitute the majority of the population.

95. The phrase "self-help" was mentioned throughout the discussion and equated with "popular participation" by most participants. In fact, several examples from individual countries were given to substantiate this "equation". At the country/district or village levels, (a) the local people identify a project; (b) collect money from among themselves; (c) request the central government's co-operation to implement the project. Clinics, feeder roads or schools were noted as examples of such projects.

96. Another type of "self-help" projects, hence of popular participation mentioned, was "need identification". Its process is as follows:

(i) The people of a given political sub-district are asked to identify and submit their developmental needs to the Central Government;

(ii) These identified needs are then technically scrutinised and become part of the national plans;

(iii) If the cost of the identified needs at the village level, for example, is within twenty thousands dollars or less, the local people are asked to finance them.

(iv) If the cost, exceeds certain amount then the Central Government carries out the cost-benefit analysis before implementing such projects.

97. Another point which was discussed was the system of government. It was felt that the past legacy, post-independence political orientations, quality of leadership and level of literacy and consciousness influenced the form of government in various countries. However, some of the participants stressed the need for more devolution of authority to the people to decide the objectives, priorities, time frame and implementation machinery for rural development in Africa. It was pointed out that such a course has to be differentiated from simple decentralization of bureaucracy. They argued that the return of power to the rural people (especially rural poor) may require structural reform. However, some delegates disagreed and pleaded in favour of a more cautious approach, i.e. co-operative movement, traditional leadership and locally initiated projects with matching grant from the national/provincial governments.

CHAPTER III

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION OF THE TECHNICAL PAPERS BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(a) Popular Participation in Rural Development: - M. Stiefel, UNRISD

98. It was widely accepted today that popular participation is an essential ingredient of development, both as an end and as a means. However, the term is often used in a very vague manner and gives rise to sometimes contradictory interpretations. This is not surprising: as a normative concept, a value concerning the social organization of work and life, the notion of participation varies logically according to the dominant ideology, definitions of development goals, the social forces and actors that use it and the wider economic and cultural context.

99. It is thus not surprising that governments and the people view increased participation often in opposite terms: for the government it means that the people should share more in the cost of development, for the people it means that they should have more access, though collective action, to the benefits of development. Such "tensions" between the effort of the State to "promote" participation on the one hand, and the efforts of the groups hither to excluded to increase their control over resources and regulatory institutions are permanent, though continually changing. It does not preclude the possibility of accomodation but points to the conflictual nature of the development process.

100. The central issue of popular participation has to do with power, exercised by some people over other people, and by some classes over other classes. Extensive research has clearly shown that the generation and perpetuation of poverty is a function of the concentration of power and the monopolization of resources. It must be accepted, therefore, that the struggle for people's participation implies an attempted redistribution of both control of resources and of power in favour of those hitherto largely excluded.

101. The transformation of class domination, the efficiency of a society in its undertakings and individual human emancipation are the main social values that are implied in the quest for increased participation.

102. Any attempt to promote or increase popular participation must be based on an analysis of the obstacles to be encountered. Main obstacles can be defined as "structures and ideologies of anti-participation". They are, by definition, those which concentrate and perpetuate grossly unequal control over societal wealth and power and legitimize this inequity: unequal control over means of production; unequal access to education, information, means of communication; bureaucratic allocation of functional power, etc. Most contemporary forms of economic growth modern technologies, modern forms of organization, incorporation of rural and local neighbourhoods into complex urban-centred systems, - have all strongly antiparticipatory characteristics of which one must be aware. Dominant ideologies of discrimination and cultural beliefs legitimizing the power of the few over the many are powerful obstacles to participation. An ideological/cultural rapture must often accompany or proceed social change in favour of increased participation of the poor.

103. The organization of the poor rural majorities into autonomous groups or movements is an essential pre-condition for the promotion of their participation. But no organizational form - be it a co-operative, farmer's association, credit group, etc., - is inherently participatory and can guarantee success; success depends primarily on the class composition of the organization's membership, its internal operational structure, leadership and the degree of political experience and consciousness. If a peasant movement reflects in itself, the wider social stratification, it is likely to fail to promote the advancement of the poorer groups.

104. Discussion: In the discussion the basic preconditions for a successful popular movement or organization were stressed. They are internal social coherance, organization, qualified leadership and conscientisation. This last point implies a long process of political education and awareness building, of experience of collective action and of self-assertion. Collective participatory action must start around a suitable "entry-point", a social or economic claim perceived to be immediate prime importance to the group and which may not be the one considered essential by the external promoter or government administrator. It can proceed from such an "entry-point" to encompass wider claims and projects. The bureaucratic constraints attached to development aid and assistance were also stressed as inherently obstractive to such a long-term process of consciousness building and participatory action.

(b) The Integrated Approach to Rural Development in Africa: Strategy and Means of Implementation - M.A. Zaman, ECA

105. Africa today suffers inter alia from: (i) increasing inequity in opportunity and income disparity, (ii) pre-mature break-up of the extended family system, (iii) inadequate scope for accountability and for people's participation and (iv) growing decline in food self-sufficiency ratio despite respectable economic performance during 1960-1980.

106. The trend needs to be reversed by participatory process for collective self-reliance, food self-sufficiency and socio-economic integration of Africa.

107. The famous Moshi Conference[1/] emphasises the need to harmonize the various component elements of an integrated approach to rural development at the planning stage and to co-ordinate its implementation. The Moshi concept requires both "quantitative and qualitative changes". The former implies sustain economic growth. The latter suggests gradual or radical change in the existing economic order and improvement in infrastructure facilities in favour of the rural poor. It was clearly visionary and, therefore, ahead of time both in terms of developmental norms and co-ordinated implementation capacity of Africa.

108. The major elements of the strategy of the integrated approach to Africa's rural development are to: (i) raise productivity, with emphasis on food self-sufficiency, (ii) ensure equitable income distribution and provide employment, (iii) establish socio-economic infrastructure in the rural areas and ensure that the rural poor benefit from them, and (iv) institutionalise effective participation of the rural poor in decision-making and implementation.

1/ The Conference was organized of the Co-operative College, Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, from 13 to 24 October 1969 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

109. The stage of the economy and the factor-endowments would determine which sector would be the prime mover in generating the resources required to attain the above objectives. In order to raise the productivity, beyond a ce.tain point, the class base and the resource base have to be reconciled. In order to make integrated approach to rural development, a realistic possibility, the process of transformation has to start on issues of immediate concern to people, as established by rural development dialogue.

110. The consequences of rural development, based on dialogue could conceivably be that production of agriculture may remain unchanged in the short run. However, health and sanitation may improve, life expectancy rise, knowledge base gain in depth and breadth which will enable the rural people to be more self-reliant and better informed regarding investment options. Given this approach, the rural people themselves are put squarely behind the steering wheel of their development. It is logical in the proposed strategy for development to first have a hard look at the existing institutional framework and see if its component elements are working at cross-purposes. If they do, they will have to be corrected to build up a consistent set of linkages. Once this is done, the strategy could be operationalized by either or in combination of (i) area development, (ii) principle of self-reliance, and (iii) devolution of decision-making authority. In designing a rural development programme some of the basic elements to be considered are viz. (i) priority of the objectives as derived by rural development dialogue, (ii) resource appraisal, (iii) definitive establishment of the programme, and (iv) implementation capacity and (v) participatory evaluation of the impact of the programme.

111. Institutionally, the most promising approach to rural development is the aggregative one. It has the widest scope and tries to reach the whole nation by the "bottom up" in contrast to the traditional "trickle-down" approach. However, the efficacy of any approach lies in its replicability without loss of efficiency-productive and allocative-over the whole country, whatever may be the approach. An integrated approach to rural development could conceivably start with one sectoral activity, say food self-sufficiency in present African context, and then gradually add on to it. As it gains in comprehensiveness, the question of co-ordination will have to be sorted out.

112. Discussion: There was general agreement, in principle, in favour of the integrated approach to rural development, with equity in Africa. However, some participants felt the concept needs a rather sophisticated understanding of the process of development, with people's participation and enlightened willingness on the part of the existing power structure to facilitate participatory development over time. Such ideal conditions do not necessarily prevail at various levels of decision-making authority in Africa to-day.

113. Hence, it was argued that each country would have its own unique integrated approach to rural development depending on the balance between various contending social forces, factor-endowments, immediate requirements and implementation capacity. Moreover, it would not be easy to match the indicative priorities as derived from rural development dialogue with their technical feasibility and financial viability at least in short-run in Africa. And this may result in frustrated expectations specially if a social maxima and a minima of current consumption is not prevailing by conscensus or decree.

(c) The Experience of Popular Participation in Rural Development in Africa
- M.A. Zaman, ECA

114. The country statements show there is a formal commitment in favour of popular participation in the development of rural Africa. However, Africa is characterized by diversity in factor-endowments, ideology and institutions. Several are market economies, some have mixed economies and others opted for centrally planned economies. Some states have federal structure and others unitary form of government with a single party or multi-party systems. Each state has its own path to follow.

115. Hence, the operational content, mechanics of planning, modalities of implementation, institutionalised scope for people's participation in rural development and for sharing in the benefits vary widely from country to country. Moreover, popular participation is defined in very different terms in various countries. It remains often undefined and concrete operational definitions are vague or lacking. In some cases the rural development programme is being carried out simultaneously or has been preceeded by radical structural reform, in favour of the poorest groups of the rural population. However, the status quo of contending social forces has not been basically altered in most cases with its logical implications.

116. Although Moshi Conference pleaded for a comprehensive package of activities to be undertaken simultaneously, this was not necessarily carried out to the letter. Some countries adopted the maximum package approach in selected areas, while others went for regional planning. One country opted for Harambee concept. Several others kept to their traditional notions of 'development' and 'rural animation'. A few countries made a bold attempt towards nation-wide egalitarian rural development, with the participation of the people themselves.

117. In most countries rural development has been equated with the development of agriculture, Some efforts and resources have also been devoted to build up a socio-economic infrastructure in the rural sector with the unexamined query, "who benefits". In both counts substantial progress has been made since the independence of the countries.

118. The integrated approach to rural development in most cases have been operationally understood as functional integration of planned activities. This meant attempts to harmonize intra- and inter-sectoral programme/projects at planning stage, their synchronization during implementation and monitoring and review by a specific ministry of a national authority, with representation from various ministries. Only in rare cases, the integrated approach was taken as an end-objective, i.e. integration of various segments of the population, which will make human beings both as the object and subject of development. Hence, the effective participation of rural people specially the rural poor of Africa in the process of their own development has been rather uneven.

119. However, there is a process of progression in thought and development. Exchange of experience, cross-fertilization of ideas, and objective evaluation of the impact on the quality of life of rural poor of the on-going efforts should help ultimately both in broadening and deepening the rural African People's participation. Meanwhile, the rural poor have a potential role in building up a prosperous, self-reliant and beautiful Africa in next 25 years.

120. Discussion: The major points made in course of the discussion are that: (i) the most African states are now concerned with functional integration to optimise the end-result on a least-cost basis, (ii) existing institutions and traditional leadership may be adapted to involve rural poor, and (iii) there is a growing appreciation of the need to encourage and assist the rural poor to be the orginators of their own development.

(d) The Popular Participation Dimension in Technical Co-operation Among African Countries and Technical Co-operation Programmes 1/ - M.A. Zaman, ECA

121. Technical co-operation is more difficult in the field of rural development than in others, largely because of its socio-economic and cultural specificity Its very nature, content and clientele- including institutions, service and technological systems for the rural poor - make it less amenable to north-south transfers, and less attractive to normal commercial exchanges. In these circumstances the most relevant and useful transfers are likely to be between developing countries with similar socio-economic, institutional conditions and constraints. Technical Co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) thus emerges as the most feasible type of technical co-operation in the field of rural development.

122. Rural development requires not only the adaptation or alteration of the patterns of development, institutional structures and technologies from developed countries to suit the conditions of developing countries, but also their further adaptation, alteration or orientation to meet the needs of the rural poor, as well as the further development of indigenous systems and capacities. Since TCDC exchanges between national elites could by-pass the rural poor, a more critical orientation should be given to TCDC for rural development, so that it can be given an added anti-poverty dimension.

123. There is considerable potential for TCDC in the more general areas of rural development (such as rural development planning, people's participation, women in development, etc.) which has not been adequately tapped. The Regional Rural Development Centres could provide a means of doing so. In the sectors of education and health, many useful exchanges have taken place in traditional methodologies and skills. Current TCDC efforts also show the beginning of experiments and change in structures and methodology in educational innovation and primary health care. In most other areas, such as in the areas of people's participation, technological development and information systems, although TCDC is being used for innovation, there is a further need for sensitive tuning and critical application for TCDC to meet the needs of the rural majority.

1/ The summary is based on an ECA condensed version of a document of UNDP Special Unit, (TCDC/2/8 of March 1981) which was prepared for the High-level committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, New York, 1-8, June, 1981.

124. TCDC currently fosters two types of exchange, thus fulfilling the different but necessary roles in rural development. First, it transfers skills and capabilities (often obtained from developed countries), after development and adaptation, to other developing countries. Secondly, it provides a cutting edge through innovations, joint consultation and action, to quicken their pace of development. While both roles are important, TCDC of the latter type especially if it addresses the needs of the rural majority - needs more assistance, because it is new, more difficult and slower to show results.

125. TCDC - especially in the field of rural development - needs to be promoted and supported. This support is required in the introductory promotional phase, the first preparatory stage (or matching country needs and capabilities), the institutionalization phase of establishing a network or framework for continuing exchanges and the implementation phase - mainly through financial support for meeting hardware and costs.

126. An appropriate institutional framework is required for countries to promote mutual exchanges in the general areas of rural development (as distinct from the technical specialised fields covered by existing networks) including such areas as rural development planning, people's participation, women in development.

127. Discussion. There was a general consensus in favour of technical co-operation amongst the African countries. In fact, some of the participants stressed Africa collectively has to solve her problems and accelerate rural development. Such a strategy should be based on self-reliance and the mobilization of the dormant productivity of the rural population through their effective participation in the process. Such an approach is desirable in view of the inappropriateness of the more traditional form of North-South technical co-operation. Some reservation was, for example, expressed regarding the net benefit of transfer of technology and of the usefulness of the expatriate technical personnel from the developed countries to Africa specially in her rural development.

128. The various examples of technical co-operation among African countries, as stated in the text of the paper, were noted and some other illustrations given. It was proposed for example, that technical co-operation should also be encouraged at the grass-roots level with regard to the promotion of popular participation, by giving representatives of rural producers' organizations and movements the opportunity to exchange experiences.

129. Some delegates indicated their interest in the historical experience of technical co-operation between various Soviet Republics since the twenties and between the USSR and the Third World. It was felt there may be something to learn since at that time the stage of USSR's development was broadly comparable with that of Africa to-day.

(e) The Role of Education and Training, Awareness Building Programmes and Information in the Promotion of the Popular Participation in Rural Development - H. Mobarak, UNESCO

130. The paper defines "popular participation" as a voluntary act which allows people to participate in decision-making pertaining to the development process and to assume the responsibility resulting from such participation. Historically, the policy of popular participation bears the imprint of tradition of rural societies, based on solidarity and co-operation. However, the shift from the subsistance economy to market economy has changed the nature of participation, which used to be spontaneous and informal, to institutionalized and calculated, if not antagonistic. There is a wide gap between the concept of popular participation and the reality.in developing countries. The politicians, sociologists and bureaucrat have their own notions of popular participation. There are factors internal to individuals and groups which impede popular participation. Cultural barrier, traditional role of the Chief and lack of motivation can also be obstacles to participation.

131. Having analysed the pre-conditions for popular participation, the paper elaborated the role of education and training in this respect. It is necessary to develop pedagogical basis for participation, that is padagogies which would cover the rural communities in their totality and provide obligatory education for children, non-obligatory forms of education for adults, with emphasis on the needs of the least priviledged - illiterate persons and women who play an important part in all aspects of the rural social life. The short-comings of existing education system in rural areas have to be reformed to (i) liquidate the inequitable access to education; (ii) improve teaching methods to bring the curriculum close to the conditions of life and mode of work in the fields; (iii) facilitate the creation of training centres which are able to promote the technological progress in rural areas and meet practical demands; as well as (iv) encourage popular participation in the identification of those forms of education which suit best their interests.

132. Similarly, the non-formal education of adults has a role to pay in liquidation of illiteracy, exercise of civic rights and assumption of responsibility, awareness building, promotion of active participation in management and control, introduction of new technology, co-operative production, diversity of the production techniques, conservation of nature, introduction and use of new and renewable energy sources.

133. Training is complementary to formal and non-formal education in preparing the people for participation. Moreover, the teachers, as agents of development, can promote the assumption of the responsibilities by the rural people in their own development. Such agents, besides being efficient and competent, should be generous, tolerant, modest, tenacious and lucid in analysing the economic, political and social aspects of self-organization and awareness building process.

134. In emphasizing the awareness building aspect of education and training, which are important means of promoting participation reference was made to mass media, since they are in 'cause-effect' relationship. One is linked with the other. And the two are associated with the concept of popular participation. To illustrate this linkage, the introduction of the comprehensive programme "Communication for the People" which is part of the UNESCO medium-term plan, was mentioned. It was argued that the communication should be regarded as a fundamental right and important instrument of promoting participation. Information can be effective only if it is proceeded by corresponding education aimed at developing the ability to evaluate, criticize and thus estimate the relevance of the contents of the transmitted information related to mobilization and propagation of knowledge, dialogue and awareness building, organization and self-government.

135. Discussion: Some of the participants observed that it is illiteracy that excluded or limited the participation of adult population in rural development. Others stated it was necessary to find a new approach to training of extension agents and peasants so that they could express themselves in their own language, formulate their needs and actively participate in the solution of their own problems. At the request of the participants, a more detailed infromation on the UNESCO's activities in the field of adult education and educational reforms, as well as the relation between education and production activities was given. The FAO representative proposed to set up joint UNESCO/FAO projects in some of the African countries, the aim of which will be "to educate in order to participate". The proposal was well received. It was pointed out that UNESCO already had joint programmes with FAO and ILO.

(f) Some Innovative Approaches to Peoples Participation in Rural Development and Promotion of Self-reliance - H. Getahun, FAO

136. People's participation in rural development has recently received the attention of international community as a human right and one of the basic needs. It has also been given prominence as a key element in rural devlelopment. This is partly due to the failure of past development strategies in many third world countries in achieving higher rate of economic growth without structural changes in favour of the most disadvantaged rural people to alleviate their poverty.

137. Since poverty in African countries is mostly in the rural sector and is associated with inadequate production and distribution systems, there was an urgent need to redirect the development efforts towards reaching the rural poor and their effective participation in the development process.

138. It was for this reason that FAO convened in July 1979 the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD). The Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action, adopted by WCARRD represent a sharp departure from the past and turning point in the conceptualization of strategies and policies to alleviate rural poverty. The objectives of WCARRD are: the rapid elimination of rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition. The new strategy calls "growth with equity through people's participation" and redistribution of economic and political power. It is for this reason FAO clls it the "Peasants Charter".

139. People's participation may be defined as the involvement and active participation of the rural poor in the design, implementation and evaluation of their own activities. It would be pertinent to mention some of the innovative approaches to people's participation by social organizations or target groups.

(a) Programme for small and landless farmers:

(i) Peoples' participation through promotion of self-help organization;

(ii) Freedom from hunger campaign action for development;

(iii) Agricultural co-operative for small farmers and promotion of institutional rural credit system to meet their needs;

(iv) Assistance to government to improve the organization and administration of agricultural inputs and services to small farmers and their organizations;

(b) Community Action for disadvantaged rural women;

(c) Programme for forestry workers;

(d) Programme for small scale artisan and fishermen;

(e) Co-operation with and promotion of non-governmental organization covering all the above activities.

140. In introducing the various models of development care has to be taken to ensure the target groups do not depend too much on external resource but stand on their own feet as soon as possible. The initial assistance in the promotion of group organizations, promotion of small loans, and improving the linkages with existing local government and other organizations should be designed to lead to self-reliance of the beneficiaries and self-sustained development.

141. Experience shows development depends upon full involvement of the people. If it is really to benefit people by bettering their lives and increasing their capacity, projects should be planned and implemented with people's participation.

CHAPTER IV

THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE

(a) Rural Economy of Uzbekistan and Perspectives of its Development - H.D. Dzahlilov

142. The Republic has achieved unprecedented success in economic and cultural development, in the improvement of well-being of rural workers as a result of socialist organization of agricultural production.

143. A lot of attention has been given to further progress of agricultural sub-sectors specially to cotton. Cotton production in Uzbekistan increased from 3.7 million tons in 1965 to 6 million tons in 1982, mainly due to the increase in productivity.

144. The increase in yield of agricultural crops and cattle productivity depends on specialization, intensification and complex mechanization of farm production. The paper elaborates these factors influencing the development of agricultural production in Uzbekistan.

(b) Planning of the Rural Economy - R. Nanyants

145. The basis of national economic planning in the USSR is the theory of the socialist construction. Some political and economic preconditions are necessary for the implementation of such a plan. The political prerequisite is the power possessed by workers, economic and material basis are the public ownership of the means of production and the distribution of the aggregate national product in the interest of the society. The most important element of the national plan of the USSR is the planning of the various components of the agro-industrial complex. It embraces agriculture, irrigation, fertilizer, technical maintenance, agro-chemical services; production of the means of production such as machinery, equipment and the organizations to ensure purchase, processing, storage and retailing the final product. The basis of the agro-industrial complex is, of course, agriculture itself.

146. In planning the rural economy of USSR, an attempt is made to determine requirements of the farm products, design plans for state purchases from republics, regions, districts, collective and state farms, determine targets of farm and diary products and develop methods for increased productivity by irrigation, land reclamation, mechanization and capital investment.

(c) Statistical Analysis of Dynamics of Agricultural Output in the USSR - E.A. Mirzaakhmedvo

147. The paper provides data relating to agricultural output in the USSR from 1960 to 1980. The data has been grouped to reflect the comparative increase in gross production of agriculture and animal husbandry. The rates of growth in different regions of the country have also been given and compared by republics. It shows the rates of growth of the public sector with that of the personal subsidiary one and concludes that the public sector is dominant and its share of the gross produce has been steadily increasing. It analyses the relative contribution of major factors in this increase. The data given illustrates the consolidation of production base of the agriculture, the increase in the number of farm, equipment and transport, the growth in use of chemical fertilizers, the increase in number of technical personnel engaged in rural sector. The area of irrigated lands, which give much higher yield than the non-irrigated one is shown to be increasing at an accelerated rate. The combined effect of the yield raising factors of production has been considerable; potatoes production increased by 9.67 percent and cotton by 42.23 percent. The paper also gives the comparative cost of production in collective and state farms. It shows the cost of the latter has been going down. Hence, the number of state farms and acreage under them are increasing over time. The paper also shows the differences in growth rates of production of major agricultural crops. It is explained by the attempts to improve the structure of social and personal consumption, especially the share of meat, eggs and milk. The share of consumption of bread and potatoes is decreasing which is consistent with scientifically substatiated nutritional norms. This trend will be maintained in future. In the concluding section, the

paper gives the differential rates of growth of various farm products. It is seen the relative share of the dairy products is increasing while that of cereal and potatoes decreasing. It is intended to maintain this trend since this is indicative of the availability of more balanced basket of food and nutrition.

(d) Training of Specialists for Agriculture and its Significance - E.T. Shaikov

148. The paper states in the pre-revolutionary Russia, three-fourth of the total population was illiterate, among the Kirgizs literacy hardly reached 0.6 percent and maong the Uzbeks it was 1.6 percent. At present, general secondary education is provided everywhere. The rural sector has its professions and its labour force totals nine millions composed of various specialities and grades.

149. In pre-revolutionary days, there were 14 agricultural colleges training 4,600 students in the USSR. It now has 104 colleges and train 500,000 students. The number of graduates with higher and secondary agricultural education has increased from 108,000 in 1928 to 270,000 in 1980. About two million specialists with higher education are working today in collective and state farms, i.e. 35 technicians per farm. It takes 4 to 5 years to train a person in his/her chosen field of specialization.

150. In former Turkestan, there were 16 agronomists in all and there was no one of local nationality among them. Now, only Tashkent Agricultural Institute annually produce over 1,500 specialists of which 1,000 are agronomists. About 11,000 students study in it and 6,000 take part-time courses. There are over 400 students from 46 developing countries who study in the Institute at present. It costs the state 1,000 roubles a year to produce a specialist.

151. Discussion: In USSR, education up to a stage is compulsory and free. The medium of instruction is Uzbek in Uzbekistan, although there is option to learn other languages. There is provision for adult education to remove illiteracy. Besides, each specialist has to go through refreshers' course once in five years. The Tashkent Institute received 1,600 specialists for such courses.

(e) Training and Rational Use of Qualified Specialists in Rural Economy - V.D. Dvorkin

152. The paper emphasises the creation of numerous specialists in the USSR has become possible as a result of the implementation of large scale socio-economic measures such as industrialization, collectivization of agriculture and cultural evolution. It then analyses the growth rates of specialists' training and their availability in the national economy. It points to considerable progress in pro providing the agriculture with highly qualified personnel, which is facilitated by the four agricultural colleges and a number of other higher educational establishments in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

153. The paper gives data of the consolidation of material and technical facilities of the agricultural colleges, admission to them and the number of graduates produced by them. The purpose of these colleges is to provide agriculture with specialists, whose number accounts for 87 percent in 1985 as compared to 64 percent in 1981 of technicians of all disciplines.

154. The paper then deals with the questions of the use of the specialists with higher education in the Uzbek SSR. It emphasises their use is governed by the policy adopted by the USSR as set out in the "improvement of planning of specialists training and the better use of graduates from higher and secondary special educational establishments in the national economy". In particular, there are elaborate methodological instructions to determine the number of required specialists by various subject matters.

155. The efficacy of the use of the specialists is considerably helped by the present practice of admiting students to colleges according to the planned figures, based on the complex need oriented programmes of specialists training. It is also facilitated by admitting youth, who are sponsored by farms and receives scholarships from them. On completion of training, they get diploma in a formal ceremony, which is held in different regions.

(f) Individual Subsidiary Holdings of the Rural Population - R.A. Saifalin

156. The paper gives data of the volume and structure of production in subsidiary small-holding and their share in the total volume of agricultural output. It notes the attempts made by the subsidiary small-holdings to increase production and to make better use of rural manpower. It also contains data relating to average income received from small-holdings and their share in the budget of collective farmers' families in the USSR and Uzbekistan specially.

157. The paper also details the basic norms determined by "Main Rules" of collective farms - regarding the area of plots, available cattle and categories of rural workers which can be alloted plots and the nature of land use. It states the number of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats which can be reared in the small-holdings and includes the various measures taken by the state to strengthen subsidiary small-holdings. The paper concludes by noting the principles of organization of kitchen gardens, group production and co-operatives to market the products. It also gives the procedure of adminsion to the co-operatives, the norms of use of allotted areas and shows the activity of the voluntary societies of bee-keepers, rabbit breeders and farmers to increase output and income. All these activities taken togehter of the small-holdings do help in meeting at least partially the food deficit of USSR and in improving the well being of small family holders.

158. Discussions: In reply to various questions, it was stated that: (i) the area under small-holdings is three percent of the total area; (ii) their number is 1,326 thousand; (iii) no hired labour can be employed in them; (iv) the state provides various facilities to these farms and (v) their share of the total produce is 23 percent.

(g) Socio-Economic Problems of Agro-Industrial Complexes in Uzbekistan - S.N. Usmanov

159. The national agro-industrial complex of Uzbekistan at present includes three principal spheres. They are:

(i) Industries which are designed to manufacture, for example, tractors and agricultural machineries", and "chemicals and petro-chemicals industries" located in Republics to facilitate agricultural products, such as food, meat and milk.

(ii) Agricultural production proper crop farming, livestock breeding, technical, agro-chemical, irrigation, land reclamation and veterinary services.

(iii) Sectors of the economy which are geared to the purchase, transport, storage and processing of agricultural produce. It includes: (a) light industry such as cotton, refining, silk, leather and fur production; (b) food industry, for example, butter-fat, wine making, tinned food production; (c) meat and dairy products; (d) cereals and maize fodder production; and (e) purchase organizations including retail trade and consumer co-operatives. They deal with the purchase, storage, processing and retail sale of raw cotton, fruit, vegetables, potatoes, grapes, etc.

160. Analysis of the agro-industrial complex structure in Uzbekistan shows its first two spheres have the largest share of output. In 1980, it accounted for 42.5 percent of growth of output, 75.7 percent of fixed production assets and 82.2 percent of the workers. The industrial component of the complex is distinguished by heavy capital investment and low labour input, compared with the other two activities. In 1980, the fixed cost of production per 100 roubles of gross output produced by the heavy industries was 1.02 roubles while in agriculture the corresponding figures was 0.61 roubles, and in the allied light industries 0.14 - 0.31 roubles, reflecting decreasing order of capital intensity.

(h) Rates and Proportions of Agro-industrial Development in Uzbekistan, SSR - B.S. Lee

161. The paper deals with the methodological problems of analysis and planning structure and inter-sectoral balance of the agro-industrial complex in the Uzbek SSR.

162. The agro-industrial integration is regarded as an objective process of interaction between agriculture and industries providing the latter with means of production and processing the produce. The inter-industry balance is considered to be the objective approach to planning. Special attention is paid to the methods of inter-sectoral development and to the structure and content elements of the agro-industrial complex (AIC).

163. The planning of the AIC development requires the precise definition of the objective functions, the complex analysis of its development during a period of time and broad balance between agriculture and industry. It also requires decision regarding the priorities in allocation of resources within the AIC and the indicators of the AIC's progress in the Uzbekistan SSR. The development of AIC in Uzbekistan is also analysed having regard to the pressing problems of social and economic development in the Republic.

(i) Scientific Substantiation of Economic and Social Problems of Economic Development - A.S. Tsamutaly

164. Agricultural science has always played a great role in various stages of economic and social development. It provided new and more productive varieties of plants and breeds of cattle. It also developed technology in plant-growing and cattle-breeding, introduced rational methods of land development and elaborated methods to combat diseases and pests. Agricultural specialists gave advice regarding the optimum size of farms, their production alternatives, wage of labourers, location of rural settlements, principles of production organization and infrastructure of the villages.

165. Scientific potential of agriculture of Uzbekistan was insufficient during the initial years of post - 1917 era. In 1917, there were only three research stations with ten scientists. The agro-industrial complex of the Uzbekistan Republic is served today by 20 research institutes which study the problems of rural sector, including hydrology and forestry. There are 5 academicians, 12 associate members of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Science in Uzbekistan. There are also 70 doctors of science, 924 candidates of science, and more than three thousand scientific workers in the Uzbek Academy of Science. The three universities and four agricultural institutes in the Republic make considerable contribution in the agricultural development. Activities in the field of farm, irrigation and forest are co-ordinated and guided by the Central Asian Department of the All-Union Agricultural Academy.

166. Increasing productivity is characteristic of agriculture of Uzbekistan SSR. Economy of collective and state farms is strengthened each year. The process of concentration and specialization of production is going on. Cotton production in Uzbekistan has increased in post-1917 period from 0.7 to 6.2 million tons, and reached 32 quintals per hectare, labour productivity rose seven times. The sown area in collective farms is 1.5 - 2 thousand hectars and in state farms - 3.5 - 5 thousand hectares. Life in rural area is approaching that of towns regarding housing and civic amenities.

(j) Rural Labour Potential and the Efficiency of its Utilization - N.A. Khan

167. The total population in USSR rose from 136 million people in 1922 to 270 million people in 1983 which represents almost 50 percent increase. The urban population increased from 22 million to 173 million people. But, rural population decreased from 144 million to 97 million people during the same period. This means the urban population rose from 16 percent to 64 percent and that of rural population declined from 84 percent to 36 percent.

168. Out of the total population engaged in the national economy (excluding students) 54 percent of the population were engaged in agricultural economy in 1940 as compared to 20 percent in 1981. The share of working women in the total number of working people went up from 39 percent in 1940 to 51 percent in 1981. The total number of working people in state farms and other state agricultural enterprises is 11 million.

169. Despite decrease in the number of rural workers, the per-capita agricultural output increased by 6.4 times in 1983 compared with 2.5 times of in 1940. One of the beneficial results of this increase is that the physiological requirements of the population for food stuffs are satisfied.

170. The main objective of the Soviet Union's Food programme is to be self-sufficient in food and facilitate the further social development of rural areas.

171. In reply to questions from the African participants it was stated:

(i) The Soviet Union imports food grains since the country does not produce enough fooder for the combined fodder. Besides, the productivity of agriculture in pre-1917 period was very low and suffered destruction during the civil war.

(ii) It is possible to build major irrigation works without sophisticated technique and heavy capital investment. Infact, in Uzbekistan 17 big irrigation projects were constructed manually. This total length was more than 1,500 km. The large Forgana canal with length of 249 kms. was built in 45 days in 1940.

(iii) Marketable surplus from agriculture is the source of capital accumulation. Hence, the productivity of agriculture should be substantially increased by providing it required inputs and institutional facilities.

(iv) In the initial stage the individual holdings may be set up side by side the state farms. As the productivity of the latter is seen to be higher, the farmers may be encouraged to form into co-operatives as a part of the process of gradually converting them into collective farms. And these collective farms should receive strong Government support in the form of extension services, inputs and marketing of the farm produce.

(v) The individual farms or co-operative farms may arrange to hire small tractors and other implements. In USSR, the machine tractor stations played a great role during 1936-1957.

(vi) In order to overcome the shortage of energy, based on USSR experience, it is necessary to build small hydro-electric stations in villages adjacent to irrigational canals and small rivers, manufacture generators, electric motors and transformers at home or order them from developed countries.

(vii) In order to help the collective and state farms, USSR in 1982 decided to:

(a) write off all debts of the farms affected by drought;

(b) raise procurement prices of basic farm produce; and

(c) develop roads and other infrastructure and civic amenities at state expense.

CHAPTER V

Summary Report on the Study Tour

172. The study tours were conducted to the following production centres and institutes:

(i) "POLITEDEL" collective farm, Tashkent;
(ii) Astrakhan Sheep-breeding farm, Bukhara;
(iii) "MADANIYAT" Collective Farm, Bukhara;
(iv) "CHINAZ" Pedigree Farm, Tashkent;
(v) "MALEK" Experimental State Farm, Sirdarzy;
(vi) Turunkulor Collective Farm, Fergana;
(vii) Usman Usupov Agro-industrial Unity, Tashkent ;
(viii) Tashkent Agricultural Institute;
(ix) All-Union Research Institute of Astrakhan Sheep-breeding, Amarkhand and
(x) "MOSCVA" Collective Farm, Samarkhand.

173. The participants were warmly received in each of these collective and state farms, agro-industrial complex research and teaching institutes, in Tashkent, Bukhara, Fergana and Samarkhand respectively. The management of these organizations gave detailed verbal account of their activities and performance since their establishment.

174. Aggregate figures were quoted stating the socio-economic conditions of the Uzbekistan SSR in the twenties and of today and also of the collective and state farms and institutes visited. A comparison of the latest data with benchmark figures shows impressive gains have been made by them in building up an economic base with collective efforts. The gains in productivity, whether in cotton, vegetables and fruits production, or in cattle or sheep breeding, diary products or in the agro-industry complex have helped the authorities to provide free of charge social facilities (such as education, medical facilities, old age benefits, roads, communication, safe drinking water and sports and cultural complex) to all the residents, according to their needs and irrespective of 'nationalities'. The overall quality of life is evidently better today than it was before the twenties. The income-disparity is much less. People generally seem to have institutionalized scope to realise the r potential and move up the ladder, irrespective of their nationality and parentage.

175. The participants showed keen interest in the historical process of the progress of the Uzbekistan SSR and specially in its collective and state farms. They anxiously wanted to know how their countries could benefit from the lessons of Uzbekistan and what is relevant to them, given the present stage of development of Africa. The participants more specifically wanted to know inter alia:

(i) What technical and financial assistance Uzbekistan SSR and USSR could provide to African States which will be consistent with their present requirement;

(ii) Whether USSR could not deliberately opt for a policy of surplus food production and export the surplus grains to Africa, which has currently a declining food-self-sufficiency ratio.

(iii) What training and advanced education facilities USSR could provide to build up African manpower requirements, and

(iv) What lessons there are to learn from the experience of the collective farms.

176. In addition, to these question, the participants wanted to know the differences between a state farm and a collective farm, and the structural arrangements or organization of each of the different kinds of farms.

177. The state farms, it was explained, are organs of the state, and the administration is the responsibility of the state, whereas the collective farms are administered locally by the people within the community of the farm and pays taxes to the state. The participants were also shown some schools, museums and cetain places of historic interests.

CHAPTER VI

RECOMMENDATIONS

178. The seminar urges member states to:

(a) Reaffirm their commitment to the integrated approach to rural development (IRD);

(b) Ensure that IRD is embodied as part and parcel of overall national development plans and programmes and that the necessary funds to achieve the objectives of IRD are appropriately provided for;

(c) Ensure the effective involvement of the rural people in development efforts, the equitable sharing by the rural population in the benefits derived there from and their involvement in matters relating to the setting of goals, formulation of policies and the planning and implementation of socio-economic development for the rural areas;

(d) Pay special attention to both equity and growth considerations in designing rural development strategies, plans and programmes.

179. The seminar urges the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to:

(a) increase its technical assistance to member states in matters related to the formulation and implementation of strategies, plans and programmes of IRD;

(b) provide technical assistance to its member states in matters pertaining to ensuring a more effective participation of the rural population in rural development;

(c) organize periodically exchange of visits, seminars and study tours which are appropriate and relevant to the African situation;

(d) set-up a multi-disciplinary evaluation team to evaluate the rural development programmes of the African member States;

(e) arrange for scholarships for African rural development personnel, who are interested in advanced studies and training.

180. The Seminar decided to authorize ECA to finalise and disseminate the report of the seminar.

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